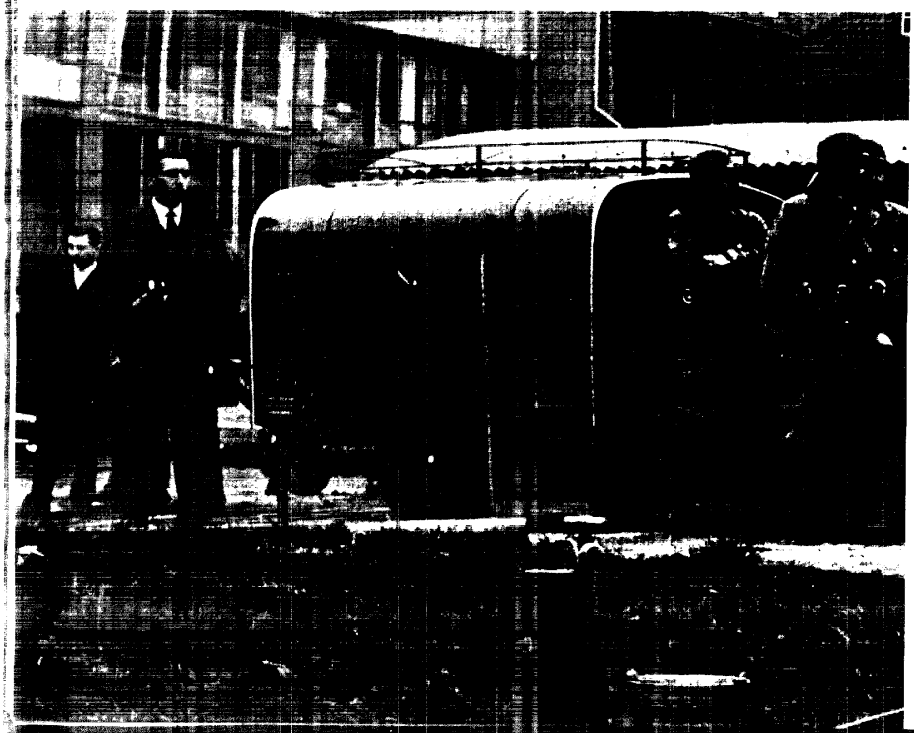
An agent's assignment: marry the secretary

As a touring cameraman, Sütterlin (above) was free to photograph official functions like the civil defense exercise he is shown covering below. But his true assignment was to copy secret papers which his wife Leonore (right), a secretary in the West German foreign ministry, brought home during lunch hour.



SPYING (CONTINUED)

West Berlin. U.S. agents rushed the Runges aboard a plane for America and no wonder.

A stocky, 39-year-old Ukrainian of German extraction, Runge had worked for the Soviet KGB since 1949 and had spent 12 years in West Germany. The two nets he directed, the Marggraf-Pieschel operation in the French mission and that of the Sütterlins at the foreign office, apparently had no knowledge of each other. The Sütterlin net was the more profitable so much so, in fact, that several years ago Runge was ordered to concentrate on that, turning the waiter and janitor over to another agent.

Sometime prior to February of this year U.S. intelligence got onto Runge. He agreed to cooperate, but only if his wife and son were taken to the U.S. with him. Then, in February, he was transferred first to East Germany, then to Moscow, where he was given a citation for his accomplishments and put to work lecturing fledgling agents. Somehow — just how will have to wait for someone's declassified memoirs — the Russians were tricked into sending the whole family back to West Berlin. Then: exit Runge, and the swish of the net around the Sütterlins, Pieschel and the perfect waiter.

Spy-catching brings out one-upmanship in governments. After Runge's defection and the subsequent arrests, the Soviets in retaliation released an excerpt from a book purportedly written by a former CIA agent named John Smith. Smith's book, according to the Moscow newspaper *Literary Gazette*, describes U.S. intelligence operations in India during the 1950s. The Soviets said he defected to Russia. Though a John Smith did work in India for the State Department during that time, a U.S. intelligence spokesman said he never worked for the CIA.

Runge, meanwhile, was labeled an "unscrupulous criminal" by the East German government. As for the janitor Pieschel, his job was to photograph documents he found in a safe in the military section of the French embassy. Finding them was no problem: he duplicated the safe key in 1958. Ordered to concentrate on documents with the highest NATO security classifications, he photographed them with a sophisticated "roll-over camera" which records papers inches by inches as it rolls along a page.

High-level spying at basement wages

SPYING (CONTINUED)

The most pathetic member of the cast was 39-year-old Leonore Sütterlin. She had a high-security job in the foreign office's administrative section, and she was one of three women on the list the Soviets gave Heinz Sütterlin with instructions to seduce and—if necessary—marry. Heinz followed orders, and he and Leonore got married in 1960. Shortly thereafter she was promoted to a better job and with it went a key to the boss's safe. Beginning in 1962, she brought documents home at lunchtime for her husband to photograph before she climbed back into a Volkswagen and returned to work.

Leonore, whose code name was Lola, seemed nonplussed after her arrest, even after she learned the real reason Sütterlin had married her. She joked with guards and asked a lot of questions about prison routine. But within a week she tied her prison pajamas around her neck and hanged herself in her cell at Klingelpütz prison in Cologne.

Not one relative showed up for the funeral of foreign office secretary Leonore Sütterlin, who hanged herself after learning Sütterlin had married her only to use her.

The Sütterlins lived in a modern $30,000 six-room home which they filled with antique furniture (plus a framed photograph of Konrad Adenauer). A neighbor recalled that when Heinz was hospitalized recently, Leonore confessed that "if anything ever happened to Heinz, I wouldn't be able to go on living." The neighbor assumed they were happily married, but added, "She did seem to love him more than he loved her, but that's always the way with men, isn't it?" After their arrest neighbors noticed the seal of the criminal police at the Sütterlins' door, but they thought it was a joke.

Despite the Sütterlins' prosperity, the espionage business was apparently not very lucrative for the Marggrafs and Pieschels. Marggraf and his wife lived with Mrs. Marggraf's mother and drove an old car. The Pieschels paid $20 a month to rent three dark, dank rooms on the ground floor of a 100-year-old house, and Mrs. Pieschel cleaned the staircase and sometimes neighbors' apartments for extra money. Marggraf's wife, so shocked by the news about her husband that she was under heavy sedation for several days afterward, described him as a perfect husband who "did everything around the house himself," even hanging wallpaper.

With an estimated 5,000 undercover agents at large in West Germany, the press and public are difficult to startle with spy stories. When it finally was made public, the Runge case ranked as only a slight scandal. Leonore's suicide, however, made headlines. A German-American intelligence team is still adding up the damage in what a West German prosecutor has called "the most important case of espionage in the history of the federal republic."

It seems unlikely that any important NATO secrets are still secret. But the most poignant—and potentially dangerous—fact to emerge from the whole episode is that Leonore Sütterlin was only one of three women in sensitive places whom the Soviets believed vulnerable to ideological conversion by romance. That means there are at least two others at large.

Klara Pieschel, whose janitor husband spied for Russia, caused a stir at a 1965 French embassy reception by embracing the guest of honor, Konrad Adenauer (left).

SPECIAL REPORT
BONN

A Covey of Spies Is Flushed in Germany

Soviet agent Heinz Sätterlin (right) posed as a photographer and had the good life. Spy Martin Marggraf (below) served embassy parties as "the perfect waiter."

A waiter, a janitor, a photographer and a secretary were charged with spying for the Soviet Union in West Germany after the dramatic defection of high-ranking Soviet agent Yevgeny Runge. The account of the latest cold war espionage episode was compiled from reports by TIME *Correspondent Richard Hornik in Bonn and* TIME-LIFE *Correspondent Jess Cook in Washington.*

Martin Marggraf was a waiter's waiter. He worked at the best restaurants in Bonn, and he was often in demand to serve at the cocktail parties and receptions which pass for evening entertainment in the diplomatic community of any capital city. "He is the perfect waiter," an employer said of him. "He sees no chew and he hears nothing."

This estimate, as it turned out, was erroneous (and 100% wrong). On Oct. 11 Marggraf was arrested by the West German federal police and accused of spying for the Soviet Union. The government charged that Marggraf not only saw and heard plenty with his own eyes and ears, but that he also had put electronic bugs at the diplomatic functions he served so impeccably.

The arrest broke the most newsworthy espionage story in years. Three other accused spies were picked up. Marggraf's brother-in-law, Leonhold Pieschel, a janitor at the French military mission in Bonn; Heinz Sätterlin, who posed as a freelance photographer, and his wife Leonore, a well-placed secretary in the West German foreign office. They were all arrested within five hours after Lt. Colonel Yevgeny Yevgenyevich Runge, a high-ranking operative in the Soviet intelligence system, defected to the West with his wife and 8-year-old son.

Runge himself was the biggest catch of all. Posing as a jukebox salesman, he had directed an operation which had intercepted nearly every code, every piece of correspondence and every secret in the Bonn foreign office and in the French embassy. As soon as they crossed into

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